UNITED NATIONS **ST**

Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/1998/55
15 April 1998

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Fifteenth session,
Geneva, 29 June-10 July 1998,
agenda item 5 (a))

MISCELLANEOUS DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Listing and classification

Precedence of hazard characteristics
Classification of substances that are self-reactive and oxidizing

Transmitted by the expert form Belgium

Background

1. In the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, the classification rules for self-reactive substances which also have oxidizing properties are very confusing.

2. On the one hand, it is stated in the definitions of Chapter 2.4 [alinea 2.4.2.3.1.1 (a) (ii)] that "*substances are not considered to be self-reactive substances of Division 4.1, if they are oxidizing substances according to the assignment procedure of Division 5.1*".
The most obvious interpretation of this alinea is that substances, that are self-reactive as well as oxidizing, are substances of Division 5.1.

3. On the other hand however, we have the classification rules for Division 5.1:

- paragraph 2.5.2.1.2 states that the requirements of Chapter 2.0 shall be met for oxidizing substances having other risks;
- sub-section 2.0.3 (c) (precedence of hazard characteristics) of Chapter 2.0 states that self-reactive substances of Division 4.1 are amongst the primary characteristics that always take precedence when the class of a substance, mixture or solution having more than one risk has to be determined - oxidizing substances of Division 5.1 do not have this precedence.

Thus, substances with oxidizing properties of Division 5.1 and self-reactive properties of Division 4.1 are not to be classified in Division 5.1.

4. In view of the above, it is obvious that alinea 2.4.2.3.1.1 (a) (ii) only means that substance, that are self-reactive as well as oxidizing, are not allowed for transport as substances of Division 4.1.

5. The reasons for the prohibition of alinea 2.4.2.3.1.1 (a) (ii) lie in the specific properties of these substances. These would lead to a Class 1 classification, or - in the case of instability - to a transport prohibition. These cases have already been taken care of in alinea 2.4.2.3.1.1 (a) (i).

PROPOSAL

The expert from Belgium proposes that alinea 2.4.2.3.1.1 (a) (ii) is deleted.